

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 0569

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, HU

SUBJECT: POLITICAL COMMITTEE CHANGES

1. AT MONTHLY MEETING FEB 27 NATO AMBS DISCUSSED POSSIBLE CHANGES IN PARTY POLITICAL COMMITTEE AT FORTHCOMING CONGRESS. QUICKLY APPARENT THAT ALMOST NO HARD INFO AVAILABLE, SO OTHER THAN CONSENSUS THAT KADAR IS STAYING, AND SPECUALTION BELOW, THERE WAS NOT MUCH ELSE OF IMPORTANCE.

2. SPECULATION CENTERED ON PERSISTENT RUMORS THAT FONMIN PUJA WILL TAKE KOMOCSIN'S VACATED POSITION AS POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEMBER AND PARTY LEADER IN CHARGE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. GERMAN AMB HAD RECENTLY DISCUSSED THIS WITH FONTRADE DEPMIN SZALAI, WHO WORKED CLOSELY WITH PUJA MANY YEARS IN PARTY SECRETARIAT. SZALAI SAID THAT IF THERE WERE LIST OF FIVE PEOPLE FOR KOMOSCIN POSITION, PUJA WOULD CERTAINLY BE ON IT AS HE HAD FOR MANY YEARS BEEN LAYING GROUNDWORK FOR SUCH POLITICAL ADVANCEMENT.

2. WE WOULD RATE THIS POSSIBILITY QUITE HIGH. PUJA WOULD BE COMPLETELY ACCEPTABLE TO USSR, IS CAPABLE, AND POLITICALLY AMBITIOUS. HE ALSO APPARENTLY IS WELL LIKED BY MFA SUBORDINATES. AS PARTY POSITION MUCH MORE INFLUENTIAL THAN THAT OF FONMIN, HE MUST BE PRESUMED
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TO BE SEEKING IT. (HIS MOST REQENT TALK WITH AMERICAN

VISITORS--CODEL WILSON, BUDAPEST A-6, ENCL. 3--INCIDENTALLY, WAS ONE OF MOST FAVORABLE CONVERSATIONS VIS-A-VISA RELATIONS WITH WEST AND U.S. THAT HE HAS HAD SINCE BECOMING FONMIN. HIS COMMENTS ARE USUALLY SO ORTHODOX AS TO BE OF LITTLE INTEREST.)

3. IF PUJA GOES, MOST VISIBLE CANDIDATE (THOUGH BY NO MEANS CERTAIN) FOR HIS REPLACEMENT AS FONMIN WOULD BE STATE SECY MARJAI, WHO IS HIGHLY INTELLIGENT, TALKATIVE AND REPETITIVE, AND THOROUGHLY ORTHODOX IN HIS DEALINGS WITH WESTERN OFFICIALS. AT NEW YEAR'S TIME MARJAI WROTE AN IDEOLOGICAL ARTICLE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS WHICH WAS ONE OF VERY FEW AMONG A FLOOD OF PIECES BY HIGH OFFICIALS THAT WAS OF ANY INTEREST. MAIN INTEREST WAS ITS HIGH DEGREE OF IDEOLOGICAL CONTENT, WHICH IS UNUSUAL HERE AND WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO SPECULATION HE IS SEEKING FONMIN POSITION. SURPRISINGLY, IN RECENT CONVERSATION MARJAI ASKED ITALIAN AMB WHETHER LATTER HAD READ WHAT HE HAD WRITTEN "BETWEEN THE LINES" AS WELL AS ON THE LINES, OBSERVING HIS ARTICLE COULD NOT HAVE BEEN WRITTEN IN MOSCOW. WE HAVE NOT ANALYZED WHAT HE MAY MEAN BY THIS IN SUBSTANCE, BUT SUCH COMMENT FROM USUALLY HIGHLY CORRECT MARJAI SHOWS THAT EVEN HE ON OCCASION SEES NEED TO MAINTAIN SOME ELEMENT OF HUNGARIAN SPECIAL INTERESTS IN THEIR FOREIGN POLICY.
PEDERSEN

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